

FACT at a Glance

Highlights of Families and Communities Together

Local and state human service providers working together with many others to meet the needs of children and their families in a more cohesive, integrated way.

FACT is a community-guided initiative designed to improve outcomes for families, neighborhoods and communities by changing the way human services are planned, organized and delivered.



**FACT:
Families
And
Communities
Together**

FACT Goal and Outcomes

The goal of FACT is not simply service integration. Rather, it is to improve outcomes – to have healthier, stronger children, families, neighborhoods and communities. FACT interventions are designed around the following outcome areas:

- **Family Self-Sufficiency:** Maximize the number of families who are self-sufficient.
- **Family Strength:** Support the development of strong and healthy families.
- **Education Success:** Contribute to the achievement of children's education success.
- **Health and Safety:** Protect the health and safety of children and adults.
- **Vibrant Communities:** Support the development and maintenance of strong, healthy, vibrant communities.



FACT Values

- State and community providers work together as equally important partners to serve those in need.
- Client and community needs are the priority.
- Clients have access to what they need as early as possible.
- There will be more emphasis on prevention, rather than responding only after families are in crisis.

FACT Challenge

FACT does not come with new dollars. Therefore, all partners must:

- Examine their priorities and policies to see where changes might be made.
- Examine how they can make their resources and funding more flexible and responsive.
- Thoroughly examine how they do business, what clients really need, and what is the best way to provide that.

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FACT Communities

Currently, the two FACT communities – **Spokane County** and **Whatcom County** – are working to develop and implement long-term plans and pilot projects under this initiative that reflect the unique needs of their families and neighborhoods.

In the future, the FACT partners hope to develop ways of working together that can be transferred and used by other communities designing such integrated approaches.

FACT Partners

At both state and local levels, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is supporting the initiative with staff time and concerted commitment to changing the way the agency works within itself and with community partners. At DSHS, the FACT initiative is part of an ongoing DSHS action agenda called “**Working Together: Strengthening Families, Neighborhoods and Communities.**” For more information, visit the DSHS website: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/WorkingTogether>

In both Spokane and Whatcom counties, the FACT initiative builds upon histories of cooperative and integrated pilot projects developed by human service providers who proved that working together, while difficult, is more effective than working separately.

Within DSHS, program partners include:

- Children’s Administration
- Division of Children and Family Services
- Economic Services Administration
- Community Services Division
- Division of Child Support
- Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Mental Health Division
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
- Medical Assistance Administration First Steps Program

Other community partners include:

- Families and extended families
- Local service providers
- Schools
- Higher education institutions
- Businesses
- Nonprofit organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Civic organizations
- Family Policy Council
& Community Networks
- County governments
- City governments
- State agencies
- Tribal governments
- Federal government



**We are hoping that you will
want to be involved in
this exciting partnership.**

**The success of this process
requires the help of
the entire community.**